

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4 and 7-9 have been amended. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 4 was objected to due to an informality. Appropriate correction has been made to claim 4. Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 112

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Appropriate correction has been made to claims 8 and 9. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 103

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murata et al. (US 5,445,003) (hereinafter "Murata").

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite applying the magnetic field in one of the plurality of electric discharge sections in a direction different from a direction of magnetic field in another of the plurality of electric discharge sections. Support for this amendment may be found in original claim 5. As indicated in the Office Action, this limitation is not found in the cited prior art and it is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 7 are now allowable.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-12 depend on claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claim 5 has been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

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By:

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